D. N. PRITT will speak

C.L.C. (L.B.) General Meeting

June 27th.

See advertisement on back page

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

June ★ 1954

Freedom — the 'Savage' way

WELL KNOWN POLITICAL PRISONERS

L. to R. are Rory Westmaas, Cheddi Jagan and Martin Carter with other P.P.P. supporters, being taken to jail in the Black Maria

GUIANA — A BIG PRISON

But fight growing

DR. CHEDDI JAGAN, deposed Prime Minister of British Guiana and leader of the People's Progressive Party, led the movement of defiance of the six month old Emergency Laws when he broke his restriction orders on April 3rd.

Dr. Jagan, who had left his dental practice over a year ago when he began campaigning for the April 1953 general elections, made plans on his return from India in February to open dental clinics in the rural areas.

continued on page 4

New Barbados Party Challenge to Adams

GREAT interest is being shown by Barbadians in the programme of the newly-formed Caribbean Christian Socialist Party of Barbados. Arising out of the Caribbean People's Alliance, the new party was founded on January 22nd and thousands of working people turned out to demonstrate their demand for a Party which would sincerely represent their interests.

The Party aims to educate Barbadians politically and socially, in a democratic and socialist outlook.

An indication of the fear of Government for this new Party is that on three occasions it has been denied use of the Queen's Park, which is a public institution.

The Party exposes the misdeeds in official quarters, as when two Englishmen with high-sounding degrees came to Barbados and in a short space of time drew thousands of taxpayers' money, then left the island scot-free.

This, in a situation where 20,000 workers are totally unemployed with no unemployment benefits, and about 40,000 partially unemployed in the only industry — King Sugar. Barbados has a total population of just 200,000.

Against a background of Imperialist imposed poverty, aided by reactionaries like Grantley Adams, the new Party is calling for independence for Barbados in a Federated Independent West Indies.

Big Rally

The C.C.S.P. was the only working class organisation that celebrated May Day 1954. It was a huge success, and was one of the best ever attended mass meetings held locally.

The workers were told the history of May Day and the working class movement.

The Party has since made a drive for a further thousand members, and may contest local elections for the first time if the Legislative Council passes the Maude Bill which will replace the Vestry system by adult suffrage in county elections.

JAMAICAN WORKERS DEMONSTRATE MAY DAY SPIRIT

KINGSTON

Several thousand workers demonstrated working class solidarity on May Day at the traditional site outside Coronation Market.

The demonstration was sponsored jointly by the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions, Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union, Factory and General Workers' Union, Jamaica Women's Assembly, Jamaica Youth Movement, and People's Educational Organisation. Representatives also attended from the Congregation of Progressive Youth.

Despite a heavy downpour of rain lasting two hours, the demonstration got under way at 7 p.m., and the mass audience listened attentively to speeches, applauding all remarks exposing the widespread bosses' industrial spy system operated particularly on the sugar estates.

Although this spy system has inspired some diffidence in public expression, nevertheless, moving among the workers one feels the intense hatred they have for the bosses.

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★ EDITORIAL ★

WHO ARE SPONGERS?

WHY ARE West Indians coming to England in such large numbers? — To earn a living, of course; to eat, to exist, to work. This we all know.

But, ah, you're wrong, says a certain gentleman of the popular press. They are coming to sponge on the English people, according to Derek Agnew writing in the "People".

". . . Thousands just want to come and loaf — to sit on your back and mine and cash in on National Assistance, the health scheme and all the services of the Welfare State."

But let him just look at the 'welfare state' in the West Indies, where unemployment ranges from 35 to 80 per cent. of the labour force, where there is no unemployment benefit, no health service and the dole is seven shillings a month; where starvation is rife.

And all these 'benefits' after 300 years of beneficient British rule, as in the case of Jamaica.

Mr. Agnew is peeved off because colonials can come to Britain provided they can pay the passage or stowaway, while English people can go to the colonies only as tourists or if they have a job awaiting them, or have money.

Anyone with eyes to see and want to use them, however, will see the reasons for this lack of 'reciprocity' that Mr. Agnew bemoans.

British people who go to the colonies go mainly as officials and various sorts of rulers, managers, exploiters, etc., or rich parasites off to Bahamas or Montego Bay to enjoy the splendours of our land.

If any odd bod from the 'mother country' finds himself without a job in a colony he would not be able to enjoy social services that do not exist.

The Dilemma

At the same time, you cannot afford to have the pure bred master race going about in rags in a colony. Gads! That would be letting the side down, destroying the carefully contrived myth of white British superiority.

On the other hand, our rulers are faced with the dilemma that worsening conditions of life in the colonies is producing greater unrest and struggle against the chains. So letting the venturesome come to England is one outlet.

But on the other horn of the dilemma, when our people to come to England they learn new lessons from the colour bar in all its manifestations.

As for 'reciprocity', no West Indian revels in his 'privilege' to be able to come to Britain without a job and to be a third class 'citizen'.

Real reciprocity would mean an independent West Indies and an independent Britain, pursuing policies of trade and interchange on the basis of equality and mutual respect to the benefit of both peoples.

As a sop to keeping Britain sterilised against us 'spongers', Mr. Agnew thinks Britain should spend the money it takes to keep us on the dole to provide jobs for us at home.

Well, we know perfectly well that we can provide ourselves with jobs in our own country if we get rid of those who are always telling us they are trying to do it for us, but who somehow always manage to come out on top while we come out at the bottom in this process of helping us.

Wholesale Robbery

For example, the total sum paid out to the colonies under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts during twelve years amounts to less than one-fifteenth of the Sterling Balances which Britain owes the colonies for goods and services received and not yet paid for.

They take out a pound and put back a few pence and call it 'philantropy'. We must be thankful they say!

Those who make money like this out of us try to keep colonial and British people apart. They do this by telling the British people lies about us, trying to get them to fear and hate us, to see us as inferiors. And then shoot us down in Kenya, Malaya, Jamaica or Guiana.

But the rays of understanding and friendship inevitably penetrate this wall of prejudice and more and more of the British working class are realising that if you want to hold another man in the gutter you will also get yourself dirty.

Organisations representing millions of British people have passed resolutions calling for democratic rights in Guiana, such as the Co-operative Party and the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

Yes, we look forward to and work for the day when we shall be free to build and live in our beautiful West Indian land, free from reproaches meted out to us as colonials. When our people will come to Britain as visitors and British people will come to the West Indies as visitors instead of rulers.

And such a day must come!

Jamaican got a job in three days

continuing the series on West Indians in British Industry

by

ARTHUR BROWN

IT IS ESTIMATED that there are some fifty-thousand West Indians employed in various branches of industry in Britain. The highest proportion is in engineering, but reasonable numbers can be found in the textile, transport, coal-mining food and clothing industries.

Yes, 50,000, the potential nucleus for an industrialised West Indies. What, one might ask, are the aims and aspirations of the majority of these people who have been driven from their homes and very often their families in search of the opportunity to earn a living?

The retort would express that fervent hope to return to their own country where they will be able to practice their skill in peace and security.

The System

Of course the islands of the West Indies cannot utilise their experience at present for several reasons. The most outstanding of which is that the colonial system obstructs local development.

What, then, are our problems in England? The two which contribute mostly to the frustration of the majority are (a) the problem of suitable employment and (b) living conditions.

Men and women complain bitterly about the tendency of some employers to keep them on jobs in which they cannot fully utilise their skill and are consequently less remunerative. The question of housing is a vexed one. This deliberate bare-faced exploitation has at times contributed to racial antagonism.

The tendency apparent at present, especially among those lately arrived and who have no trade or profession, is to take advantage of the unique opportunity available here to learn one or other of the various trades.

I spoke to a Jamaican who arrived in England on May Day with 100 others. He was fortunate enough to have got a job three days' after as a turner. He is happy and is acquainting himself with what he calls "the English way of turning." I asked him about the other workers' reaction to him. He agreed that he drew subtle comments and often a quick glance at his work. But all in all quite understandable.

Certain British Trade Unions are playing a tremendous part in securing the co-operation of the West Indians in the struggles for improving conditions. As a result, a number of West Indians represent English workers on Committees in factories, concerned with safeguarding what the workers have won over the centuries.

This pooling of common interest will not only contribute to the creation of better working conditions in England but will also assist in bringing about the development—industrially, economically and culturally—of the West Indies.

WHERE OUR MONEY GOES

United British Oilfields (T'dad)

WITH JUGGLERY that no Trinidadian could ever accomplish, U.B.O.T. was able to cut their provision for Taxation (1953) by nearly two-thirds, from £900,000 to £390,000 although they were paying out the same Ordinary Dividend as the year previous, that is, 10d. donation for each 6/8d. Stock Unit held by foreign parasites.

Imagine the very able Financial Secretary offering this FREE GIFT BONUS to the oilfield workers and their families?

Yes, this is how we assess the efficiency of the so-called Government! Who commands their loyalty? Who derives benefits as a result of their activities in office?

Ponder on these things; NETT PROFIT for 1953, for the foreign owners was close on Two Million West Indian dollars — (£374,800).
—controlled by Tate & Lyle Investments, Ltd.

★ ★

WEST INDIES SUGAR

THIS SUGAR monster of British economic life appears sprawled across the Caribbean, sucking blood, sweat and wealth from our beautiful islands.

The boys on the sugar estates are paying 1/4d. for every £1 Share held by the shareholders, back to the shareholders. Sounds all right eh? Last year we paid them 1/1d., so this year they get an increase of 23%—what do you think of a wage increase on that scale?

How justly could the £344,279 nett profit have been distributed? And no fooling, depreciation of £199,319 has already been allowed, taxation of £685,228 provided for, a further £74,629 for a variety of credits, and all £344,279 still left. Yes the sugar estate workers at Frome, Jamaica and other estates cut, loaded, ground, shipped 122,765 tons of sugar for the year.

B.G. CONSOLIDATED GOLDFIELDS

UNDER THE directorship of an unashamed Tory Member of Parliament, this 'dredge' has mined £7,986 as an operating profit, after the usual deductions (depreciation and amortization) amounting to £43,067.

The fancy terms mean that this company has put aside cash each year to allow for a replacement of machinery, and in the second place, compensate themselves on an artificial basis, within the terms of the Company's Act, on the principle that the investment, that is, the goldfields are wearing away and hence diminishing in value!

How the oilfield owners of Trinidad must scratch their fat bellies with glee! Their diminishing assets—the oil and pitch lakes—produce greater records each year!

Who gained from all this? Hardly the workers whose "housing in Trinidad would shock an R.S.P.C.A. man", as said Frederick Ellis, "Daily Express" City Editor in early April on his return from that sunspot.

No, its the saga boys of London's City clique who reap the benefit.

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Caribbean Youth Festival

AFTER THE great success of the National Festival of Guatemala, which took place from the 19th to 21st of February, preparations are being intensified for the regional Festival of young people of Central America and the Caribbean which will also take place in Guatemala during October 1954.

The youth of all countries of Central America and the Caribbean can participate. The programme contains sports and cultural competitions, open-air activities, demonstrations, excursions, songs, dances and discusions, etc.

Address of Organising Committee: Fernando Arias, President of the Initiative Committee, Pro-Fiesta de la Amistad et Hugo Barrios Kloc, General Secretary, 12 C.11 — 13-36, Guatemala.

Guiana Laughs at Savage — 'My wife and I'

A BIG SHOW is put on at the largest cinema in Georgetown — The Astor. The advertisement reads: "Tonight — 8 Savage Shows — My Wife and I — Bishop Ananias — Final King Calypso 1954 contest with our greatest Calypsonians — Hear 'Burnham-Jagan Arrival' . . . "

It is the night after the spectacular arrival of the P.P.P. Leaders — Jagan and Burnham from their tour of Britain and India. The two men accompanied by their wives, and former Minister of Labour, Ashton Chase, are there.

The show opens in typical Guianese fashion — 20 minutes late. Tom Charles Syncopators play a few numbers and then the Calypso contest begins. A few are not so good and the audience lets them know it. Likes and dislikes are open—no politeness with the Guianese audience who spend their few hard-earned pennies for good entertainment.

After a few contestants sing, the comic sketch "My Wife and I" begins. Sam Chase, Guiana's famous comedian, plays the part of the ruler who lived in the year 1597. He is dressed in cape and plumes. His wife, a male actor, wears hat, purse and gloves.

The sight of the two on the stage alone causes great hilarity, for no one is fooled by the date or the introductory remarks by Sam that they are portraying 'no one who ever lived, or is living or is likely to live".

'King Sweetness'

There was trouble in the country he ruled. The people were demanding more pay and better houses. The ruler's advisors came to him making many demands. The representative of commerce rushed in insisting that he do something to relieve the situation. "King Sweetness" made him sign a paper to settle all the trouble. The Church wasn't satisfied with the state of affairs and demanded that he do something immediately. Local politicians point out that they would govern less badly if only because no one could govern more badly. At every interview the ruler finally gives in saying: "My wife and I . . ." (This is Governor Savage's hackneyed statement).

The people's demands persist. The audience hears a voice say: "Who took my lorries. I'll not stand for this damned nonsense". (A statement reputed to have been made by Sydney King, then Minister of Communications).

Bold attack

In the middle of the satire, the ruler and his wife do a Scottish highland jig which almost brings down the house. Sam sings a song with verses like:—
"Who is sorry that all this happened—my wife and I";
"Who will miss me when I'm gone—my wife and I".

The little sketch is a bold attack on the Governor at a time when the Emergency Orders prevent real criticism. The people, who have no love for the man Savage are only too happy to show their scorn and dislike by laughing at him.

The other sketch, "Bishop Ananias", again portrayed by Sam Chase, ridicules a local 'bishop' who gave evidence before the Constitution Commission, saying that he overheard persons who were going to set fire to the city. This, he stated, he reported to the Attorney General. It is generally believed that this person's nonsensical statements were the cause of the fire plot charge against the P.P.P. in the White Paper. Sam deals with the bishop with his inimical humour.

Good meeting

'King Fighter', winner of the contest, sings a calypso about the P.P.P.—"We gonna vote PPP, for freedom and liberty, and end all slavery". This he has to sing twice while the large audience joins "We gonna vote PPP."

During an interval between two acts Sam ad libs—"This is just the 'interim'. During the interim nothing is real."

He announces: "I don't care what they do to me—but I must call upon our two great fighters to take a bow". Jagan and Burnham stand to a deafening applause.

As the people leave the Astor long after 11 p.m. they say: "We had a good P.P.P. meeting tonight."

BOOK WORLD

HERE IS A HERO OF THE PEOPLE

WHO AM I to attempt a criticism of Martin Carter's "Poems of Resistance" from Guiana? (Price 1/6d.; obtainable from Central Books, Ltd., 2, Parton Street, W.C.1.)

Well, these are not the poems that I learnt during my schooldays, they are of the New West Indies, when

'Mankind is breeding heroes every day,
On high the scarlet banner flies aloft
Below the earth re-echoes liberty!'

Martin Carter sings songs such as have been written where a nation was on the eve of liberation from oppression, but never before in my beloved West Indies.

We have had the students, we have had the 'literateurs'. Some have gone abroad and blossomed in new fields. Some have adopted new lands from sheer escapism, others have even deserted to win doubtful fame in a foreign setting.

For me an ordinary West Indian who never shone at school, but one who has inherited all the history of struggle that has been my people's lot, I can appreciate when this son of Negro slavery writes:—

" This is what they do with me
Put me in prison, hide me away
Cut off the world, cut out the sun
Darken the land, blacken the flower
Stifle my breath and hope that I die!
But I laugh at them—
I laugh because I know they cannot kill me
Nor kill my thoughts, nor murder what I write.
I am a man living among my people
Proud as the tree the axeman cannot tumble—
So if my people live I too must live
And they will live, I tell you they will live!"

★ ★

To repeat quotation after quotation would at best express my views on this pocket treasure that has come out of Guiana, but alas, this method would also destroy the long thread that is woven by Carter's pen.

For my friends the working-people I recommend you to read and enjoy this work, it belongs to our level because Carter is not writing in phoney exalted language. As the Hon. Sidney King of the P.P.P. said in the Foreword, "In a colony there is no room for 'intellectuals'. Everyone must be an activist."

THIS IS MARTIN CARTER, as he is today shuttered in a lousy colonial jail.

Billy Strachan

Dignity in this 'Blues'

"THE AVERAGE earthling", wrote Dreiser in one of his autobiographical novels, "has frequently the greatest hesitation in revealing the net of flesh and emotion and human relationship into which he was born and which conditioned his early efforts at living and too often his subsequent place in life and society." Ethel Waters proves herself well above the average earthling in freedom from such hesitation, for her autobiography, "His Eye is on the Sparrow" (Published by W. H. Allen, 2/-) is an unvarnished account of the great actress-singer's struggle towards success in her two careers.

★

Ethel, born in Philadelphia in 1900, was a child of violence. Her father, a good-for-nothing playboy-pianist (with the connivance of Ethel's aunt), raped her mother one night at the point of a knife, subsequently disowning the issue and marrying someone else. Later he was poisoned by a jealous mistress (the wages of sin!) and Ethel grew up with her mother's family on the wrong side of the street—tipping off prostitutes on police raids, stealing food from green-grocers to make the money stretch, fighting off fresh old men—attending the Catholic Church.

The striking feature of her childhood is her precocity. She made her first public appearance as an entertainer at the age of five.

Her narration of near escapes from a lynch-crazy southern town is powerful, and the faithfulness with which she described her affair with a drug-addict among others adds a poignancy to her story. On page 19 she

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

describes the Red Light District where she lived as a child.

"The prettiest sight in that whole neighbourhood came at dusk when the lights were turned on in the sporting houses. I'd stand on the street and look in with awe at the rich, highly polished furniture and the beautiful women sitting at the windows wearing low-cut evening gowns or kimonos."

Ethel Waters knew the pitfalls and she avoided them, but the pitfalls themselves she accepted. She sees the heart behind the 'devil's' masque and knows that the folks

folks in **Fifth** Avenue are no better than those in **Tenth** Avenue; it's just that some folks are up there, brother, and some folks . . . But that's life!

★

That, incidentally, is also **blues!** Idealisation of misfortune—the belief that all possible worlds are evil, anyway, so let's sing and be happy: I've got plenty of nothing and nothing is plenty to me.

This mock bravado in the face of life's troubles is not unnaturally an ingredient of her style.

But critics of blues often miss the affirmation of racial pride it contains.

"I have the soundest reasons for being proud of my people. We Negroes have always had such a tough time that our very survival in this white world with the dice always loaded against us is the greatest possible testimonial to our strength, our courage, and our immunity to adversity . . . Our greatest eloquence . . . comes when we lift up our faces to God, person to person. Ours is the truest dignity of man, the dignity of the undefeated."

That is the abiding impression of "His Eye is on the Sparrow", "the dignity of the undefeated."

Chris LeMaitre

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That man SIMMS!

—Security Forces Alerted

Rolly Simms, member of the C.L.C., has just returned to Jamaica with his wife, and has sent us the following News-letter:—

KINGSTON, JAMAICA:

"We are back on the rock after a quite eventful voyage.

"In Trinidad we were not allowed ashore. Lennox Pierre, John LaRose and Irma Hillaire were down to meet us, but they were kept a good distance from the ship by the police. But the police didn't reckon on the strength of my voice and Anne and I climbed up to the very front of the ship and carried on a conversation with them that Rance could probably have heard up at Government House.

CHEERING DOCKERS

"The dock workers began to gather around and I forgot about the boys and started addressing the workers. This made the white flunkey who was in charge of the police hopping mad, and he tried to move us off the deck.

"We laughed at him so he went to the Captain of the ship who sent the Chief Mate to move us. We told him we would leave in a few minutes when we were finished.

"No cargo was being taken up from the hold of the ship and it had only four hours to load and unload. I didn't know Anne had such a loud voice, boy it's really loud and hard. The captain ordered me to stop speaking; I made it plain that he would have to use violence to shut me up. He took the hint and didn't say a word to me again.

"The workers were listening intently but not showing any signs of their feelings, save a sly grin. They soon warmed up and were clapping and cheering even though the wharf was lined with ordinary police and customs police and secret service busybodies. I spoke on every subject I could think of, Guiana, Kenya, Malaya, Rance and Steel Bros. of Burma, the corruption of the British ruling-class, exploitation of the West Indies.

BARBADOS

"We were allowed ashore in Barbados. We called on the home of an old pen pal. I nearly fainted when I saw where he was living. He and his daughter were sharing one room about ten feet by eight. The only furniture was a table on which they cooked, and a couple of chairs. They slept on a contraption which I couldn't describe what made it. The girl was six years' old, but she did not laugh or play or even exhibit any curiosity which is natural in a child of that age. She just lay on the bed and looked at us, not even bothered by the flies that were crawling over her face.

STILL FIGHTING

I felt tremendous respect for a colleague who could in such conditions spend 1/6d. on a stamp.

"Many other youngsters form a spirited and enthusiastic crowd, that make up the Caribbean Christian Socialist Party.

"On the trade union front, there is a sharp rift between demagogic leaders, Grantley Adams on the one hand and another leading official on the other. An attitude of thinking that you can fool imperialism by clever manoeuvres is still rampant.

"As you walk through the streets of Bridgetown, you can hear of the terrific popularity of these young fighters—Grantley's power has been slipping at a tremendous rate."

HOME, SWEET HOME!

"We reached Kingston on Saturday 17th. The immigration Authorities put us on one side to wait, left the ship and came back with Middleton, the right-hand man of Keeley, the Security Police Chief.

"We had 19 pieces of luggage; they went through every piece. The only question Keeley asked me was whether I had any arms? Our tea-chest of china which was packed with masses of paper was delved into. Everything was really ransacked. I was taken into a room and searched. When they found nothing they went back for a second time into one of our grips. I attempted to take a photograph of them searching, so the customs officer jumped in to stop me.

"I raised my voice very loud at this and a sizeable crowd gathered around. The support from the people is really wonderful.

"Anne who had got quite irrate, loudly stated that she hoped they would find a time-bomb that would go off under their noses, and a worker replied, 'don't worry, one day they will'.

"Until we left, crowds of assembled unemployed workers were giving us encouragement—they understood this sharp lesson!"

NOTES FOR WOMEN

Time to move

IT HAS OFTEN been observed that West Indian women do not play a large enough part in the public life of their community. True, many of them indulge in activities described vaguely as "Social Work" but how many of them can rightly be called leaders. We have an example from British Guiana of the work which a woman can do—let us hope it inspires some of us to follow!

Women have been very much in the news recently. First there is the movement asking for equal pay for equal work. Women have been holding public meetings

★ by JOYCE

and recently in Hyde Park members of the public were invited to sign a petition which was presented to Parliament.

About the same time that this question was being discussed we heard the sad news of the death of Lady Pethick-Lawrence who played such a large part in getting votes for women.

Although we do not need to fight for the vote there are so many other social and political questions on which West Indian Women could take action. For instance, why don't our domestic servants organise themselves. Spasmodic attempts have been made—most notably in British Guiana—but where are the women who will undertake the task of leading such a movement in other territories?

Ooh, Calaloo!

In London recently the Ideal Home Exhibition attracted huge crowds. We were particularly interested in the Women's Institutes section which put on a display of dishes from various parts of the world. There was a dish of Calaloo, the ingredients for which had been flown over from Trinidad. The disappointment was that we were not allowed to taste!

Having got on to the subject of food, I have been thinking what an important topic this is to us West Indians in England. Most of us have discovered out-of-the-way little shops where—after walking miles—we can buy some of the ingredients so dear to our hearts and stomachs! We then spend back-breaking hours in our little bed-sitting rooms struggling with gas rings to produce the food we get at home. After years of trial and error in tackling this problem, I have come to the conclusion that the best plan is to buy ordinary English food—yes, cabbage and potatoes! — and cook them with imagination.

ONE BIG PRISON

(Out of a total of 36 registered dentists only 19 are effective practitioners, which gives one dentist to about 24,000 persons. This average is even increased since 14 practise in Georgetown and 4 in New Amsterdam).

Dr. Jagan, in a letter to the Governor, protested against the restriction of his movements. "This is a flagrant violation of my democratic and civil rights as a citizen of Guiana. I have neither committed nor have been charged for any crime. In addition, this restriction denies me the opportunity of pursuing my professional calling".

Mass Arrests

He applied for permission to visit his dental clinics on April 3rd, and added — "I wish to notify you that should this permission be withheld I would be forced to disobey the order restricting my movements. This application being refused, he left for Mahaicony.

Dr. Jagan was arrested over 40 miles from Georgetown and brought to Police Headquarters in the city, where he was held for two days and two nights without bail. On the day after his arrest, Police locked up his wife, General Secretary of the P.P.P., Martin Carter and Rory Westmaas (detailed at Atkinson Field for 81 days from October) and six other Party members who led a demonstration around Police Headquarters protesting against his arrest.

Huge crowds assembled around the Magistrate's Court on the 5th of April, when the 10 were brought to court. The trials were postponed and they were released on bail. The police earlier had arrested 20 persons, charging them with disorderly behaviour. Twenty minutes after his release, Dr. Jagan was again arrested along

★ from page 1

with 12 others, charged with holding an illegal procession as thousands followed them down the streets.

Representing himself on the charge of breaking the restriction orders, Dr. Jagan entered no plea before Magistrate Sharples, who incidentally, is the brother of Dr. Sharples who was defeated by Dr. Jagan in the 1953 elections.

"To enter a plea of guilty or not guilty would be to presume the validity or justice of the Emergency Orders." After exposing filthy cell conditions where he and 16 others were kept in a 10 x 12-ft. cell, he went on to state "I do not recognise the Emergency Orders. It saw birth in the minds of fascists who are prepared to take away the rights of the people willy-nilly . . . This is a court of law, not a court of justice . . . I do not expect justice in this or any court. Justice has been dead since the British troops landed in this country.

"Today the whole country is a vast prison. Whether I am outside or inside doesn't matter very much. Prison holds no terror for me . . . I am looking for the day when there will be a greater justice in this country . . ."

Tear Gas

Dr. Jagan was immediately sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

In the week following the arrest of Dr. Jagan, over seventy persons were arrested on various charges including disorderly behaviour, holding illegal processions and meetings, assault, etc. One demonstration involving arrests was a march of women before Government House.

The police used tear gas in the Party Headquarters on the 7th, closing down the office and posting armed guards. However, another office was opened in another part of Georgetown on the following day.

The police, in a determined effort to smash the People's Progressive Party, had carried out frequent raids on Party Headquarters prior to closing it down, carrying off all Party property. The printery which works for the Party was closed down for 24 hours and armed guards posted. There has been some relaxation in that the printery is now opened, but still guarded—and the printer warned not to work for the P.P.P.

Estate Strikes

The scene shifted to the country, where several spontaneous strikes had already occurrred on the sugar estates. At Port Mourant over 65 workers were arrested and tear gas used as they protested at the arrest of Dr. Jagan. As the police carried away only a few of the demonstration leaders, others jumped on the police lorries, demanding to be arrested with their comrades. Forty-five refused bail That area was then proclaimed by the Governor.

Immediately after Dr. Jagan's arrest, Mr. Burnham, Chairman of the P.P.P., was served with a restriction order, bringing the total number thus restricted to ten. He refused to comply with the section requiring him to report to the police twice weekly, and on April 10th most of the restricted persons refused to report.

On the Queen's birthday, the people wore mourning colours as a sign of protest.

Thus, leading the campaign of defiance of the Emergency Laws which deny the people of Guiana their legitimate rights, Dr. Jagan became the first political leader to take voluntary imprisonment in British Guiana.

FIGHTING VIET NAM

DIEN BIEN PHU is a name which will echo in the ears of imperialists whenever and wherever they assemble to contemplate their contemptible gambles.

Indo-China comprises three states — Viet Nam, inhabited by the Annamese, who are three-quarters of the Indo-China union population, Cambodia and Laos.

Of these three fertile lands, Viet Nam is the most important. Subdued by Imperial China at the beginning of the Christian era, its inhabitants gallantly agitated and fought until A.D. 931 when the Annamese independence was achieved.

For 856 years the rich culture of these magnificent people found expression in their song, music, arts and temples of the most stimulating beauty.

French Entry

Unaware of the wicked and vicious designs of the French they lived and were happy. The year 1787 meant for the Annamese people their first encounter with French imperialism. For in that year on a religious pretext France intervened in Southern Annam.

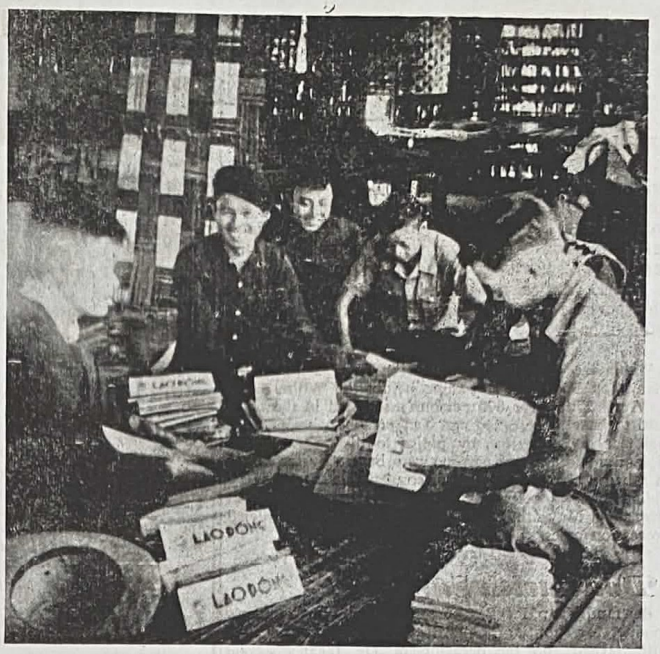
The French administration weighed heavily with a tyrannic yoke. All industrialisation was prohibited, the traditional education was suppressed, resulting in an increase in illiteracy to the fantastic figure of 80 per cent. of the population.

After the collapse of France in 1940, Japan replaced France as the principal buyer of Indo-China's coal, iron, rubber, phosphates and rice.

Indo-China was forced to buy increasingly from Japan The year 1941 saw Indo-China drafted into the yen block by the signing of the Japan—Indo-China Economic Agreement. This completely one-sided agreement provided free entry into Indo-China of 40 Japanese products and minimum duties on 400 others.

The liberation of Viet Nam from the Japanese took place in August 1945, and in January 1946 democratic elections in the country resulted in the setting up of a Provisional Government with French recognition. This Government was under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh.

A distribution centre for the journal 'Laodong' (Labour), organ of the Vietnamese General Confederation of Labour



Now a note on the "respectable" gentleman known as President Bao Dai.

by J. VASS JACKSON

In August 1945 he relinquished his title as Emperor of Annam to participate in the progressive reconstruction of his country. The rigours of an honest existence being less scintilating than the gambling tables of Hong Kong, we find our "honest" Emperor deserting to Hong Kong.

The reckless adventurers responsible for the formulating of French policy, backed by the American disgust of democracy that does not conform to the China Lobby's interpretation, decided to regain the mineral wealth of Viet Nam at the expense of liberty.

So again the battle-scarred people faced an enemy. On September 25th, 1946 the French colonialists launched this war.

The discredited Bao Dai who was rescued from the stagnant mire of Hong Kong and installed by the French as head of the Viet Nam State.

The people of Saigon greeted the gesture with demonstration and a general display of their anger. Bao Dai then returned to his mountain resort, where he rested for nine months.

U.S. Greed

During this period the senor partner in this conspiracy, the U.S.A., was active behind the scene.

America's roving Ambassador, Dr. Jessup, visited Hanoi in December 1949.

The "New York Times" of 11th February, 1950, wrote:—

"Indo-China is really worth staking on. Its northern part can export tin, wolfram, zinc, manganese, coal, timber and rice.

"Its southern part produces rice, rubber, tea and leather—from the military point of view Indo-China is also of high strategic importance."

To this one needs to add the fact that from bases in Indo-China, Japan during World War II was able to penetrate Siam, Southern China and Singapore, and you will clearly see the reasons for this unwarranted interference with the life of these people.

Why is it that a country of 90 per cent. peasants has engaged and kept at bay the military might of France and America for over eight years? Because they are fighting for their land and their freedom.

Achievements

They have faith in the leadership of the Lao Dong Party, their party created out of their suffering. A government which in four years reduced the legacy of illiteracy from 90 per cent. to 32 per cent., increased the number of school classes by 96,711, establishing primary schools in every village, reducing land rents and interest at the same time.

Yes, Dien Bien Phu shall live forever and from this remote spot lying majestically in its picturesque setting, a monument shall reach up into the air attesting to the noble and glorious besiegers, men and women who laid siege to a citadel of capitalist military might, striking a blow for peace, for which the latter half of the 20th century will always be remembered.

We're winning

"We shall be wise if we avoid the mistake of endeavouring to withold a concession ultimately inevitable until it has been robbed by delay of most of its usefulness and of all its grace"— so said Lord Halifax, when as Major Wood he visited the West Indies on behalf of the Colonial Office, during 1921.

Long time ago that, and the woolheads can't see that nothing will stop us. The fight is raging, the Jagans are imprisoned, Joshua of St. Vincent, LaRose and Barrett of Trinidad, Smith, Daphne Campbell, Hart of Jamaica, Price and Goldson of British Honduras are front rank leaders that are now hounded by police and military.

These leaders are only the 'seven heads' of the restless dragon that spreads across the Caribbean—so in the fable, so in the islands, seven new heads replace each single fallen crown, and so on . . .

Useful tips

Here is the basis for Tony Wedgewood-Benn's futility which he expressed to Johnny Jackson and myself as we argued on to midnight in the lobby of the House of Commons a week or so ago. This was after a Socialist Medical Association discussion on Health in the colonies.

Mr. Wedgewood-Benn, M.P. for a Bristol Constituency recognised the intense ill-will that existed between the colonial peoples and Britain. He saw no satisfactory rapprochment possible. Poor man of doom, who a week later I see is in the leadership of a Movement for Colonial Independence set up in London by a group of Labour Members of Parliament. Between us, Johnny and I gave him some tips, roughly in this order of precedence:

(a) Withdraw all British troops from colonial territories;

(b) Recognise the right of the local peoples to elect their own representatives to their own Policy-making Council;

(c) Establish friendly ambassadorial relations; and

(d) Offer the hand of friendship and real assistance, in the way of mutual exchange of trade, interest free loans, interchange of technical and educational facilities, and a Treaty of Solidarity against any military aggression.

Young Tony was taken aback, and could only reply, ". . . not so quickly, young men."

Let us hope that this is not the attitude of the Movement for Colonial Independence.

Billy's Corner

★

by Billy Strachan

★

People's Police

Imagine the Colonial Secretary's jealousy when he reads this little anecdote.

Returning from a very successful evening after a C.L.C. dance at the Royal Hotel my companion was a male, for a change! His exuberance was equally as high and he told me how he was reminded of similar P.P.P. social events in Guiana.

From this, to recounting his home experiences in recent years. He was formerly a policeman. He used to attend P.P.P. public meetings at Bourda and throughout Guiana, accompanied by 194 or more constables to keep order where no disorder ever occurred within his memory.

Result: 60 to 70 per cent. of all cops who attended in the course of duty returned to barracks, converted to the banner of the P.P.P.

So much for the Police Action. Carry on Lyttelton!

BRITISH PROTEST

HAYES, MIDDLESEX branch of the Electrical Trades Union, has sent the following resolution on Br. Honduras to the Colonial Secretary and local M.P.s:

"The Branch protests against the action of Mr. Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, in suspending the elections in British Honduras. It demands that full democratic rights are given to the people of British Honduras; that they are granted the right to elect a government of their own chosing."

Note.—Elections were not suspended, but this resolution shows support that exists in wide sections of British labour movement for colonial freedom and justice.

GUIANA NEWS BRIEFS

FOLLOWING Dr. Jagan's sentence of six months' imprisonment several persons demonstrated at Plantation Port Mourant. Sixty-five persons were arrested, police used tear gas and the area of Berbice was proclaimed. Later, women participated in a sit down strike, refusing to disperse on police orders. When the cases were called to court, women marched in protest against the Emergency Laws. The majority of those arrested refused bail.

When the cases against the sixty-five persons from Plantation Port Mourant came before the Whim Court on April 27th, over 800 persons assembled in the court yard to hear the proceedings. Ten persons were arrested and tear gas was used by police to disperse the non-violent crowd. Several persons were beaten by the police in a baton charge. The crowd, consisting mostly of East Indian women, refused to move during the tear gas attack. On May 4th, the Magistrate dismissed the illegal procession cases.

'Down with Savage'

Bertrand Yhap, P.P.P. member charged with disorderly conduct for shouting "God Bless Cheddi Jagan; Down with Savage" on the occasion of Dr. Jagan's second arrest was found guilty and fined $50 or two months' imprisonment. He chose imprisonment.

Barrister Rudy Luck was taken to prison on May 3rd to serve two months for refusing to sign a bond of $100. He was charged for disorderly conduct and assaulting a police officer when, on April 7th, after a tear gas attack on the Party's Headquarters, he came to assist in locking up the office. The Police later withdrew the assault charge and the Magistrate ordered that he be placed on a $100 bond. Announcing that he refused to sign the bond, Mr. Luck was given ten days by the court to do so.

Press attack

Following an accusation by the press and the pulpit that the People's Progressive Party was guilty of painting slogans on city churches and desecrating a bible in Smith's Memorial Church, the Party issued a denial noting that it had every reason to believe the acts to be committed by enemies of the Party in efforts to discredit the organisation. This denial has been attacked by all three of the newspapers.

After this press attack on the Party, the Police have carried out over thirty raids on private homes and two raids on the Party's new Headquarters. The Party's weekly paper "Thunder" came out for the first time on April 26th after a two week delay caused by police scrutiny of articles. Yesterday the guards at the Arcade Printery and the Party Headquarters were removed. The Party Executive has been granted police permission to meet.

Police have raided the New Amsterdam and Rose Hall Branch Offices of the P.P.P., the home of former Assemblywoman, Jane Gray, and the offices of the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union.

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League Runner-up

THE MERSEYSIDE West Indian Society extended its efforts with the aim of closer co-operation among West Indians on Merseyside by forming a cricket section last season.

The teams, consisting of men from all the islands and Guiana, were captained by F. Noel of Trinidad, and F. Rodney of Jamaica. The final position found the team as runners-up for the Lewis Cup in Liverpool and District Cricket League.

This was no 'walk-over', and it must be remembered that they were only beaten after a replay by the team which has been League Champions and Cup holders for many years—the Kirkdale C.C.

For the 1954 season there will be two teams, an 'A' and 'B'. There will be a strengthened leadership too, as Noel has been joined by Roach, Rhoden and Simmonds.

We wish both teams a good season's cricket.

Powerful May Day

Six thousand workers marched in the traditional May Day Celebrations after police permission was granted to the Trade Unions on the morning of May Day. The Police gave permission on condition that no political placards be used, no political speeches be made and an alteration of the traditional May Day route through the working class districts.

Mounted police, police lorries and jeeps, police inspectors and plain clothes security police were seen in large numbers. They carried the procession through the least populated areas of the city. The procession was led by leaders of the country's most powerful Trade Unions —Transport Workers' Union, Post Office Workers' Union, British Guiana Labour Union and the Guiana Industrial Workers' Union. Mr. Jackson, President of the Post Office Workers' Union, moved the following resolution:—

"Be it Resolved that this May Day gathering of workers pledge itself to fight for: 1. The establishment of democratic rights, civil liberties and a representative government; 2. The recognition of trade unions fully representative of the workers; 3. Increased wages and salaries to meet the high cost of living and improvement in the standard of living of the workers; 4. Continued support for colonial and other workers fighting capitalist oppression and exploitation in their lands; 5. The formation of one strong, central trade union organisation fully representative of the trade union movement.

While the six thousand marched, a handful of trade unionists belonging to the recently established breakaway T.U.C. met in a hall.

Seventeen persons were arrested at Plantation Skeldon following a May Day demonstration.

CARIBBEAN DAY
SUNDAY, 27th. JUNE

The 7th. Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) will take place at

3 Robert Street, N.W.1 at 2 p.m. sharp

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Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

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Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 3 Robert Street, N.W.1.

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